PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCE

PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC RELEASE OF BIOEQUIVALENCE PROTOCOLS AND REVIEWS

CONTENTS

PURPOSE To make reviews of protocols for demonstration of bioequivalence of drug products publicly available and to reduce reviews of multiple protocols for the same drug product.

BACKGROUND

- The Office of Generic Drugs, (OGD) Division of Bioequivalence (DBE) reviews protocols submitted by industry for proposed bioequivalence studies of drug products. Only protocols for products not covered by an existing bioequivalence guidance are reviewed.

- Multiple protocols for the same drug product are routinely submitted.

- The need to review each of the many protocols for the same drug product is very time consuming for DBE and substantially reduces the time which could be spent reviewing applications.

- OGD has developed a procedure to make the review of the first acceptable protocol for a particular drug product publicly available. Thus, potential sponsors or contract research organizations would have the benefit of the

current Center opinions regarding the study design necessary to demonstrate bioequivalence of the proposed generic product to the innovator product.

REFERENCES

- 21 CFR 320.30
- 21 CFR 10.90

DEFINITIONS

- **Protocol Review Package (PRP).** Material to be provided to requestors consisting of standard cover sheet (Attachment A), submitted protocol (redacted) and the Center letter transmitting protocol review comments (redacted).

POLICY

- The DBE will provide to requestors through the Drug Information Branch, Office of Training and Communication (OTCOM) protocols for bioequivalence studies and related review comments.
- Requestors may obtain copies of a PRP from the Drug Information Branch.
- Generally, when there is not a bioequivalence testing guidance, the first protocol submitted for a drug product will be reviewed.
- If possible, one reviewer will be assigned to do reviews for a specific drug product. If additional protocols for the same drug product are submitted prior to the review and release of the initial acceptable protocol, that reviewer will be assigned to these submissions. Generally, only one protocol and related review comments will be made available publicly.
- If an acceptable protocol review package for a specific drug product is available through the Drug Information Branch, other protocols for the same drug product will usually not be reviewed. A submitter may request review of an alternate protocol by stating in a cover letter how the alternate differs from the one already reviewed or there are other compelling reasons for review of another protocol for the same product. If it is determined to be appropriate to review an alternate protocol, the alternate PRP will also be made publicly available.

- Should another protocol be received for review because the submitter is unaware of the availability of reviewed protocols, the Review Support Staff in the DBE will advise the submitter that a reviewed protocol is available.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND PROCEDURES

DBE Reviewer

- Upon assignment of a submitted protocol, proceeds with the review in accord with Division and individual priorities.
- Completes the review in the accepted manner.
- Prepares the review comments for inclusion in a letter to the submitter of the protocol.
- Submits the review for supervisory concurrence.

Review Support Staff

- Prepares a letter to transmit the review comments to the protocol sponsor.
- When the review of a submitted protocol is completed, sends a copy of the protocol, the letter transmitting the review comments and the cover sheet (Attachment A) to the CDER-Freedom of Information (FOI) Office, HFD-019, for redaction.
- After the redacted material is received by the Review Support Staff, it will be compared to the unredacted as a re-check on the material for information which may be confidential.
- Sends the redacted material with cover memo to the Drug Information Branch, HFD-210, 7520 Standish Place, Rockville, MD, 20855, 301-594-1012.
- Maintains an accurate up-to-date listing of available protocol review packages and notifies the public information staff and OTCOM of updates.
- Sends updates to the Drug Information Branch and to OTCOM for “FAX-on-Demand.”
- Once an acceptable protocol for a specific drug product is available for release,

contacts firms with pending protocols to request they be withdrawn and obtain the publicly available information as a means to obtain Center comments.

Drug Information Branch

- Provides Protocol Review Packages to requestors in a timely manner.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This MAPP is effective upon date of publication.

Attachment A

Protocol Review Package Cover Sheet

Unique Identifier:

Drug Name:

The information contained in this protocol review package (PRP) represents one methodology that is acceptable to the Office of Generic Drugs for the determination of bioequivalence for this drug product. This package is made available to serve as a recommendation to regulated industry. This PRP is an informal communication under 21 CFR 10.90 and reflects the best judgment of CDER employees at the time it was made available for release. It does not create or confer any rights, privileges or benefits for or on any person, nor does it operate to bind or obligate FDA in any way, and is subject to change if warranted. Persons interested in pursuing a bioequivalence study are encouraged to contact the Division of Bioequivalence before initiating any bioequivalence study to ensure that guidance obtained through the Freedom of Information process is consistent with current recommendations. Anyone wishing to develop alternative methodologies should contact the Office of Generic Drugs/Division of Bioequivalence for the appropriate process.